

deposing the Taliban. Like in Iraq, our military men and women performed exceptionally well.

But the victory in Afghanistan is not complete. Just last month, we launched, with Pakistan, another military initiative to find additional Al Qaeda forces hiding out in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan and western Pakistan. Security in Afghanistan is largely absent outside of Kabul and traditional tribal leaders and warlords have real control over most of the country. Scheduled elections may need to be postponed because of the inability of the international community to register voters in the countryside due to lack of security. Opium production is reaching record new levels. Our job in Afghanistan is clearly not done.

Our national security officials cannot focus on an infinite number of problems at once. There are only so many hours a day for the National Security Advisor, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and other top officials to do their work. They can't focus on everything and must make choices. There can be no doubt that Iraq required an incredible amount of time and resources in order to succeed. What is the opportunity cost? I fear that part of the reason for the slow progress in Afghanistan is the result of diversion of resources and attention to the invasion and reconstruction of Iraq.

The commitment of time, money and resources to Iraq has also impacted our homeland security. The war, occupation and reconstruction costs in Iraq are likely to exceed \$250 billion. That is a huge expenditure. By focusing our scarce resources during an economic downturn on Iraq, much less has been available to fund our first responders and protect our country.

A recent independent review of our homeland security efforts by the Century Foundation found major deficiencies. Their Homeland Security Report Card clearly indicates that a safer America will require significant improvements by the Department of Homeland Security. While there have been successes in passenger screening, the air marshal program and infrastructure analysis, this report highlights serious and disturbing shortcomings that leave Americans vulnerable. Protecting private planes, securing air cargo, providing funding for first responders, and better immigration oversight are critical to our security. It is disappointing to find that, according to the Century Foundation's report, in these areas we may be worse off than before September 11.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress needs to stop focusing on rhetoric about Iraq and begin to focus on the facts. We need to spend less time trying to portray loyal Americans as soft on terrorism because they raise questions and want to debate the most effective ways to prevent terrorism and protect Americans. A full and healthy national debate, in Congress and around the country, will not weaken our resolve, it will strengthen us. Building a consensus policy to combat terrorism will allow us to move forward united. A consensus policy will reduce friction about dedication of resources and will allow us to sustain a consistent policy for the duration of our fight against terrorism. That is the debate we should have had. That is the debate our country needs to have.

NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases (PIDD) are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases, which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because of a family in my district, the Driscolls. Kerstin and Dean Driscoll are from Greene, NY and have two sons who were born with an extremely rare PIDD called X-Linked Agammaglobulinemia, or XLA. Zack, 11, and Alex, 9, are confronting XLA head on. XLA is a genetic disorder that prevents production of B-cell antibodies that fight infection. When Zack was 3 years old and Alex only 9 months, they suffered chronic ear and sinus infections. Their recurring illnesses remained a mystery to their parents and doctors, until tests were done to confirm that the boys had primary immune deficiency diseases.

Soon after their diagnosis, Zack and Alex were treated with an immune globulin infusion (IGIV), which is prepared from the plasma of many blood donors, to support their immune systems. Zack and Alex receive their IGIV infusions once every 3 weeks and the infusion takes approximately 4 hours.

Zack and Alex are lucky because their primary immune deficiency disease was diagnosed early. However, despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is 9.2 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Driscolls face their sons' PIDD head on, by becoming active with the Immune Deficiency Foundation. Therefore, I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19th as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.

COMMEMORATING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, and pay my respects to the innocent people who died at the brutal hand of the Holocaust.

An anniversary like this is often filled with mixed messages of hope and sorrow, pain and promise. While these words contradict each other on paper, they live together in our hearts and minds on a day like today.

The emotions of sorrow and pain are easy to feel. By the time World War II was finished, 6 million Jews died for no reason. Countless families had been torn apart, Europe was virtually demolished, and the horrors of the Nazi regime were scarred into the minds of the entire civilized world. Looking at this tragedy, it is easy to see only bad things. It is easy to view the worst in people.

But, it was difficult, impossible in fact, to stop the world from denouncing these atrocities, and saying, "Never Again." Human-kind had the hope and promise to try to make this world better—to try to make this world more understanding and open.

The world has come a long way since the darkness of the 30's and 40's. In the almost 60 years since the Holocaust ended, we have become a more open and understanding society. But, our quest for a better world is constantly battling hate, discrimination and anti-Semitism.

We all know the violence that is carried out by those who hate. But, I also know that if our ancestors could get through World War II and the Holocaust, we can survive our own battle against hate and terror, and make the world safer for our children.

Mr. Speaker, Yom Hashoah serves as a memorial to those who both survived and lost their lives from the Holocaust. Let it also be a day to reaffirm our commitment to the values that won . . . love, honor and respect.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PFC. CHANCE PHELPS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Private First Class Chance Phelps, who honorably devoted his life to defending the freedoms of our nation. A member of the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Chance was recently killed while defending the freedoms of the Iraqi people in Ramadi, outside of Baghdad. His story is one of honor, selflessness and sacrifice. As we mourn the loss of an American patriot, I think it is appropriate to call the attention of this body of Congress, and our nation, to the sacrifice that Chance made on behalf of a grateful nation.

A tall and athletic nineteen-year-old, Chance attended Moffat County and Palisade high schools where he was known for his fun-loving nature and being an avid outdoorsman. He came from a family with a rich military tradition, his father John being a Vietnam veteran, and his sister Kelley working at the Pentagon. After the terrorist bombings of 9-11, Chance knew that he had to do something for his nation, and resolved to join the Marines. As a dedicated member of our armed forces and as a patriot, he answered the call of duty, embarking on a journey to defend freedom and independence.

Mr. Speaker, Private First Class Chance Phelps will be sorely missed, and although we